BRITISH COLUMBIA

BC STATS Infoline

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Issue: **00-30** 5 Pages
July 28, 2000

highlights

a weekly digest of recently released British Columbia statistics

The Economy

- **Exports of BC products increased 4.6% (seasonally adjusted) between April and May.** Shipments to both the US (+4.7%) and other countries (+4.4%) rose at similar rates. Forest product exports were 2.7% higher than in April, while international shipments of mining (+18.6%) and other manufactured goods (+5.1%) posted stronger gains. However, exports of agriculture, food and fish products were down for the second month in a row, falling 13.4%. *Source: BC STATS*

- **BC workers earned higher wages but worked fewer hours than other Canadians during 1999.** Average hourly earnings in the province were the highest in the country, at $17.26, more than a dollar above the Canadian average of $16.14. Hourly earnings in other provinces ranged from $12.23 in PEI to $16.98 in Ontario. Because Ontario workers spent more time on the job (averaging 37.3 hours a week) than their counterparts in BC (36.2 hours), their weekly pay packet was higher: $633 compared to $625 in this province. British Columbia and Ontario were the only provinces where weekly earnings were above the Canadian average ($596). The typical Canadian worker spent 36.9 hours a week on the job last year, with average hours ranging from 36.0 in Quebec to 38.2 in Newfoundland.
Source: SC, Catalogue 71-005-XPB & BC STATS

- **Women in the province received an average wage of $15.57 an hour in 1999.** This compares to an hourly wage of $18.90 for men. The female/male wage ratio in BC (82%) was among the highest in the country. Only in Quebec (83%) and PEI (93%) was the gap between male and female wages smaller. Nationally, Canadian women made an average of 81 cents for every dollar earned by men in 1999.
Source: SC, Catalogue 71-005-XPB

Radio Listening

- **British Columbia residents spend less time listening to the radio than other Canadians do.** Last fall, radio listening times in the province averaged 18.4 hours a week, less than in any other province, and well below the national average (20.5 hours). Newfoundland (19.1 hours), Nova Scotia (19.8 hours) and Manitoba (19.8 hours) were the only other provinces where residents tuned in for less than 20 hours a week. Residents of PEI (22.1 hours), Quebec (21.3 hours) and Alberta (21.0 hours) spent the most time listening to the radio.

  While adult contemporary was the radio format of choice for almost every occupational group, retirees were most likely to tune in to talk radio (26.8%). Farmers/farm workers (40.6%) and fishers (28.4%) showed a marked preference for country music. People in artistic or recreational occupations tended to prefer the CBC (23.2%).
Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0007XPE

- **In BC, the most popular radio format was adult contemporary, with 15.0% of the total market.** Talk radio (13.9%) attracted slightly more interest than the CBC (13.7%), while gold/oldies/rock stations were the next most popular (12.8%). BC (10.5%), Ontario (8.5%) and Quebec (1.4%) were the only provinces where country music stations did not have a substantial share of the total market. Country was king in six of the seven other provinces, with market shares ranging from a low of 18.6% in New Brunswick (where it was the third most popular format) to 54.8% in Newfoundland.
Source: SC, Catalogue 87F0007XPE

Report **Internet Usage in BC**

Did you know...

The worst snow avalanche in BC's history occurred in 1910 when 62 workers were killed at Roger's Pass. They were trying to remove snow that had been deposited on the CPR tracks by an earlier avalanche.

Park Attendance

- **During the first six months of 2000, 8.6 million visits were made to BC's provincial parks.** This was down slightly (-5%) from the 9.0 million visits made during the same period last year. The drop in visits occurred in the Lower Mainland (-13%) and on Vancouver Island (-1%). Park visits were up in the rest of the province. *Source: BC Parks*

Beautiful but Sometimes Deadly

- **BC's natural beauty draws large numbers of visitors to the province, but being outdoors proved deadly to 319 people who died as a result of exposure to the elements or other natural forces during period from 1985 to 1998.** On average, 23 people are killed each year in BC due to natural occurrences such as avalanches, storms, and extreme temperatures. One in four is a visitor to the province. Men are four times as likely to be killed as women.

  Hypothermia (111) and landslides and avalanches (111) have taken the greatest toll, accounting for seven out of every ten deaths due to climatic or natural elements between 1985 and 1998. In addition, 55 people have died of exposure or starvation; 24 as a result of an encounter with a wild animal, bee or wasp; 10 from excessive heat; 4 in storms; 3 as a result of being struck by lightning; and 1 in a forest fire. Most of the deaths due to hypothermia or exposure occurred in urban or rural communities; only 35 were in the wilderness.

  Note: These figures exclude deaths due to drowning or water accidents.
  Source: Vital Statistics Agency Quarterly Digest Vol 9 No 4

- **Alcohol was a factor in 71 of the 319 deaths that occurred between 1985 and 1998.** All but three of the alcohol-related deaths resulted from hypothermia or exposure, usually because people became extremely intoxicated and passed out in cold weather. Most hypothermia deaths occur during the winter months, but there have been deaths due to excessive cold in every month of the year except June.

  Source: Vital Statistics Agency Quarterly Digest Vol 9 No 4

- ***Ninety-eight of the 111 deaths resulting from avalanches or landslides were the result of snow avalanches.*** There were 61 fatal avalanches in the province between 1985 and 1998, 17 of which killed at least two people. Nearly all of the victims had been engaged in recreational activities such as hiking, skiing or snowmobiling. March (37 deaths), January (25) and February (13) were the deadliest months.

  Source: Vital Statistics Agency Quarterly Digest Vol 9 No 4

Family Violence

- **According to the 1999 General Social Survey, 7% of Canadians who were married or living in a common-law relationship had experienced some type of spousal violence (ranging from threatening to hit or throwing objects to sexual assault) during the previous five years.** Threatening to hit and pushing, grabbing and shoving were the most commonly reported violent incidents. The rate of spousal violence was similar for both women (8%) and men (7%), but the nature and consequences of the violence were generally more severe when women were the victims. BC and Alberta (both at 9%) had the highest incidence of spousal violence against males in the country. The incidence among women (10%) in BC was above the national average, but lower than in Saskatchewan (11%), Alberta (11%) and PEI (12%).

  Seven percent of older Canadians (65+) reported experiencing emotional or financial abuse by a child, caregiver or spouse. Emotional abuse (7%) was the most common. One percent were victims of financial abuse and a similar percentage had been assaulted or sexually abused by a family member or caregiver. *Source: SC Catalogue 85-224-XIE*

University Revenue

- **Government grants and contracts were the main source of funding for BC universities in the 1998/99 school year, accounting for 56.1% of total revenues for the institutions.** Tuition fees brought in another 17.1% of their revenues, with the remainder coming from other sources such as the sale of services and products (10.9%), bequests, donations and other grants (6.2%), investments (3.5%), and miscellaneous revenues (6.2%). BC university students bore a smaller share of the cost of their education than those in any other province except Quebec (13.1%) and Saskatchewan (16.8%). *Source: Statistics Canada*

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For data originating from Statistics Canada: data sourced to 'Statistics Canada' has been retrieved from CANSIM, the agency's electronic database; otherwise the source is identified as 'SC' plus the publication name or catalogue number.

July 28, 2000

Infoline Report:

Internet usage in BC

Contact: Anne Kittredge / (250) 387-0374

Originally published in May 2000 issue, *Earnings & Employment Trends*. Annual subscription: $60 + GST

As an add-on to the Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada is now conducting an annual survey on Internet usage. Questions cover the general use of computers for communication. The emphasis is on home use but the questions also address use at the office, school, library, etc. This article will look at what the situation was in October 1998. The reader should keep in mind the extent to which this technology has begun to permeate our lives over the last two years. Thus, many aspects of the profile presented here have probably already changed substantially.[1]

In BC, approximately 28 per cent of households accessed the internet from their home on a regular basis. Among the 72 per cent of households that were not regular internet users, by far the majority did not have a computer in their home (75%). Among those who had computers at home[2], 61 per cent were internet users.

While the majority of internet users also used the internet regularly at either work or at school, 8 per cent of households used the internet exclusively from their homes.

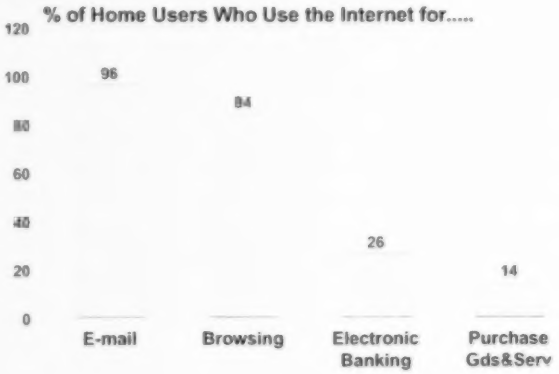
Who Uses the Internet?

The profile of the demographic and socio-economic characteristics of households that use the internet in the home is pretty much as expected. For example, in households where the head is over the age of 65, only 8 per cent of homes use the internet compared to 37 per cent among heads age 35-54; families with kids are more inclined to use the internet than those without, etc.

Among those households that did not use the internet at home, not surprisingly, cost was the main deterrent[3]. In line with that, the higher the household income, the greater was the probability that the internet was accessed from the home – 45 per cent among those whose income exceeded $60,000 compared to only 15 per cent for those who earned under $36,000.

What We Use the Internet for....

The proportion of households using their home computers for purchasing goods and services was still very low in 1998.



The chart above shows that E-mail was the primary internet use, where virtually every household with internet access used this service. But as far as time spent on the internet, only about one-third of all internet users spent more than 25 per cent of their

[1] *The profile will be updated when the October 1999 data becomes available.*

[2] *In 1998, 46 per cent of households had computers in their home.*

[3] *On the other side, complexity was cited by only 14 per cent.*

internet time on e-mail. Only 3 per cent of all users used the internet for e-mail exclusively.

Two years ago, there were limited opportunities to purchase goods over the internet and at that time, only 14 per cent were using the service. It was not until the latter part of 1999 that the general public adopted this method of purchasing. It will be interesting to monitor how much the practise has become mainstream over the last two years.

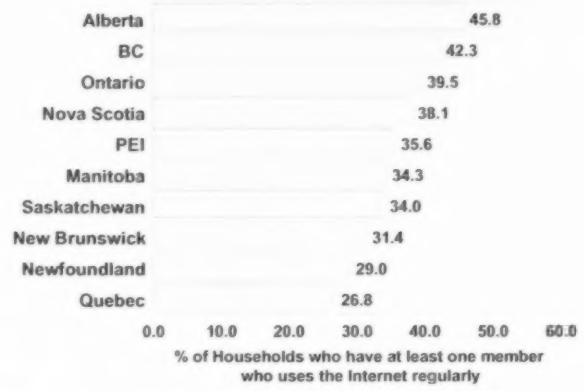
The unit costs of using the internet did not seem to be a deterrent to the amount of time spent on the internet, but rather the access to, and the reliability of the server were cited most often as the major drawback.

Internet Usage -- Cross Canada Comparisons

The next chart shows the proportion of households by province where at least one member uses the internet on a regular basis, be it from home or some other location.

While BC's internet usage is slightly lower than Alberta's, this is because Albertans are more inclined to use the internet at work – BC & Alberta's home use levels are the same. The relatively low numbers of Quebecers using the Internet is most noted in the workplace. Only 16 per cent of Quebecers use the internet at work, which is only one half the level of Albertans at 32 per cent.

In a typical month, members of households in Alberta and BC were most likely to use the Internet
1998



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BC at a glance . . .

POPULATION (thousands)	Jan 1/00	% change on one year ago
BC	4,043.7	0.9
Canada	30,606.7	0.9
GDP and INCOME		% change on
(BC - at market prices)	1998	one year ago
Gross Domestic Product (GDP) *($ millions)*	110,948	-0.2
GDP *($ 1992 millions)*	99,708	0.2
GDP *($ 1992 per Capita)*	24,908	-0.8
Personal Disposable Income *($ 1992 per Capita)*	15,969	-1.6
TRADE ($ millions)		
Manufacturing Shipments (seas. adj.) May	3,275	8.7
Merchandise Exports (raw) May	2,723	14.6
Retail Sales (seasonally adjusted) May	2,879	4.5
CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		% change on
(all items - 1992=100)	Jun '00	one year ago
BC	113.2	1.5
Canada	113.7	2.9
LABOUR FORCE (thousands)		% change on
(seasonally adjusted)	Jun '00	one year ago
Labour Force - BC	2,092	0.4
Employed - BC	1,952	2.5
Unemployed - BC	141	-21.9
		Jun '99
Unemployment Rate - BC *(percent)*	6.7	8.7
Unemployment Rate - Canada *(percent)*	6.6	7.5
INTEREST RATES (percent)	Jul 26/00	Jul 28/99
Prime Business Rate	7.50	6.25
Conventional Mortgages - 1 year	7.90	7.05
- 5 year	8.25	7.75
US/CANADA EXCHANGE RATE	Jul 26/00	Jul 28/99
(avg. noon spot rate) Cdn $	1.4664	1.5110
US $ *(reciprocal of the closing rate)*	0.6826	0.6630
AVERAGE WEEKLY WAGE RATE		% change on
(industrial aggregate - dollars)	Jun '00	one year ago
BC	631.46	1.0
Canada	611.09	2.7

SOURCES:

Population, Gross Domestic Product, Trade, Prices, Labour Force, Wage Rate } Statistics Canada

Interest Rates, Exchange Rates: Bank of Canada Weekly Financial Statistics

For latest Weekly Financial Statistics see www.bank-banque-canada.ca/english/wfsgen.htm

Released this week by BC STATS

- Small Business Quarterly, Fourth Quarter 1999
- Earnings and Employment Trends, June 2000
- Business Indicators, July 2000
- Current Statistics, July 2000

Next week

- Exports, May 2000
- Quarterly Regional Statistics, 2nd Quarter 2000

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